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Flying the flag

Several local dignitaries made an appearance at Minden Hills Town Hall on Monday, Aug. 23 for the raising of the Pride flag. Allan Guinan, Chair of Minden Pride 2021 and pictured back left, thanked the 50 or so residents who attended the flag raising event. Also on hand were Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, second from left, Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, centre, Conservative candidate and two-time MP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock Jamie Schmale, second right, and Minden Hills **Deputy Mayor Lisa** Schell, right. /MIKE **BAKER Staff**



'First of its kind' dental clinic committed to the community

by MIKE BAKER
Times Staff

Since its inception back in 2010, the Haliburton County Volunteer Dental

Outreach (VDO) has completed more than \$3.2 million worth of in-kind dental work on some of our community's most in-need residents.

The brainchild of Bill and Lisa Kerr, VDO offers a wide range of services to those in need of dental treatments, whether it be a

simple oral cleaning, or an extensive root canal procedure.

"Many years ago, my husband and a hygienist went to Honduras for an overseas dental outreach program, and they got to chatting about how important it would be to provide this sort of care to local people here

in Haliburton," Kerr said. "There are a lot of people that don't get their teeth taken care of because they can't afford to do it."

While Bill Kerr has his own dental practice in Minden, he and his wife, who is a lawyer, decided to set up a volunteer clinic in

see DENTAL page 3



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Members of the Haliburton-City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition delivered a petition, signed by 3,600 individuals, to MPP Laurie Scott's office in Lindsay earlier in August, calling for action to improve care for seniors living in retirement and care homes. /Submitted.

Local coalition continuing push for change in long-term care

by MIKE BAKER Times Staff

One of the leaders behind a local coalition committed to improving quality of care for seniors living in long-term care homes has criticized Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott for "ignoring" a 3,600 signature-strong petition calling for change in the industry.

Bonnie Roe, who helped launch the Haliburton-City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition back in 2020 after watching on in horror as COVID-19 ran roughshod over LTC facilities across the province, has been working hard to inspire change in a sector she has described as toxic and broken.

The most significant piece of her effort to date has been the creation of a petition, calling upon Scott to take the concerns of her constituents upstairs, directly to the likes of Rod Phillips, Ontario's new minister of long-term care, Health Minister Christine Elliott and Premier Doug Ford, to find immediate solutions to "this long-standing crisis" in LTC.

That petition was launched in April, and formally delivered to Scott's office in Lindsay on Aug. 6.

"We already knew that Laurie wouldn't be there - because we invited the press, we were told Laurie would need her communications person from Queen's Park to attend, and, during the summer, that just wasn't possible, so we knew that going in," Roe said. "Still, it's been two weeks ... I would have expected a phone call by now, but we still haven't heard [from Scott].

"That's disappointing, not so much just from our group's perspective, but from the perspective of the 3,600 constituents who were hoping that their concerns would be heard," Roe continued.

The petition outlined five key areas for change the local LTC coalition has identified as being most in need. They include amending the Canada Health Act to incorporate longterm care facilities, to ensure they receive necessary public funding and are forced to maintain national standards for cleanliness and care; provide at least four hours of direct care per day, per resident and improve working conditions for staff; reinstate annual inspections and implement strict fines for those who fail; change the culture of care for seniors, moving away from an institutional feel to create a more homely atmosphere; and take the profits out of Long-Term Care and reinstate them as a public-only service.

While she knew there was an appetite in our community to see change in the industry, Roe says she was a little surprised by the response received.

We are certainly pleased by the number of respondents we had - very happy indeed. Ever since we delivered the petition, we've had another 400 sign on, so our true number now is actually in excess of 4,000," Roe said.

Through correspondence with Scott's office, the *Times* was told that, in the original petition signed by 3,600 individu-

als, the majority of those who signed were not residents of the HKLB riding. Kailie Oortwyn, legislative affairs advisor with Scott's office, said more than half of the petitioners resided out of province or overseas, with many from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the United States.

In an emailed comment to the *Times* Scott intimated the Ontario government was doing a good job investing in long-

"After decades of neglect from successive governments, our government is moving quickly to address the challenges the sector faces and modernize how long-term care is delivered in Ontario," Scott said. "In our 2021 Budget, we added \$933 million, on top of the \$1.75 billion we had already invested, to create 20,161 new beds and 15,918 upgraded beds built to a modern, 21st century design standard. This is more than two-thirds of our commitment of 30,000 new long-term care beds by 2028."

Scott says the government is also on track to ensure LTC residents receive more direct care from staff. She says the province has committed to investing \$4.9 billion over four years to increase the average of daily direct care from 2.75 hours to four hours – a request outlined in Roe's petition – something Scott believes will make Ontario the leader in direct care in Canada.

Referencing inspections, Scott says changes will soon be coming to ensure LTC facilities are held accountable should they fall below acceptable standards.

"The inspection process exists to keep our residents in longterm care safe, and improving inspections is a recommendation that was made both by the Long-Term Care Commission and the Auditor General and we are actively working on changes to the inspection regime by introducing new legislation in the fall which will create new accountability measures for the sector," Scott said.

Despite these promises, Roe remains skeptical. She plans to attend a protest at Queen's Park in Toronto on Sept. 13 to express her concerns over way the province is managing

In the meantime, she also plans to meet with each of the candidates running for office here in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock in the upcoming federal election to see where they stand on long-term care.

"Our number one goal, the thing we want to see most is for the Canada Health Act to include long-term care. It should be amended ... to ensure public funds and national standards are guaranteed," Roe said. "So, although LTC is, strictly speaking, provincial jurisdiction, we feel this is prime time for us to get our message out there.

"The fact we've been able to put together a petition that has now been signed by more than 4,000 people, it shows that this is a serious issue and needs the attention of our MP to inspire change," Roe concluded.

For more information on the Haliburton-City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition, visit www.ltcneedsyou.ca.

Dental outreach provides vital service to Haliburton County community

from page 1

Haliburton back in 2010. The facility operates, on average, three days per week, and makes use of professional dentists who are willing to volunteer their time to the cause. Today, VDO has five fully trained dentists amongst its ranks. They also employ a full-time office manager, and a part-time dental assistant.

Lisa Kerr says the VDO model is "the first of its kind" in Ontario, and has been very well received by the Highlands community. Over the past decade, the organization has seen 1,095 patients, and scheduled 818 appointments.

To be eligible for treatment, patients must first go through a financial screening. While individuals are sometimes embarrassed, Kerr says it's an important step to ensure the clinic is able to treat those who need it most.

"Our mandate is to see low-income residents from Haliburton County... First of all, we will ask for their net income... If they're below a certain number, we know that they can't afford to go to a regular dentist and we will approve them for treatment," Kerr said.

There are special considerations taken into account too on occasion, Kerr noted.

"There are also people in our community who are struggling sometimes because they're having a bad year, and they can't afford their bills. So then we will look at their numbers, and then also take into account their basic living expenses – so rent or mortgage, costs to keep their car on the road, food in their cupboard, having a cell phone," Kerr said. "So, after looking at all of those numbers, if we determine these people cannot afford a dental bill on top of what they're already spending, they will qualify."

Individuals processed through the program can, and often do, receive multiple treatments. Kerr said the majority of the people the clinic sees have neglected their oral health for years, meaning they require sev-



Haliburton County Volunteer Dental Outreach hosted its 11th annual golf tournament fundraiser on Thursday, Aug. 19. The event raised more than \$50,000 for the clinic. Pictured are participants Howard Clarke and Charmaine Clarke, and volunteer dentists Dr. Michael Proctor and Dr. Michael Cusato. / Photo courtesy of Brigitte Gebauer

eral fillings, and possibly root canals.

VDO offers a multitude of dental services, including cleanings, fillings, root canals and dentures to individuals 18 years of age and older. Kerr said just about the only services the clinic doesn't typically provide are bridges, implants and crowns.

Recently, VDO has also partnered with the provincial government to offer services to seniors through the new Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program – something Kerr says has been a "godsend" for the clinic.

"The province just started funding this program last summer – it covers dental procedures for seniors over the age of 65," Kerr

said. "Since that program launched, we have scheduled 144 appointments, from which we have carried out \$65,000 worth of work.

"That program has been phenomenally successful – when it started, we said we could take up 20 of our clinic days and dedicate them to seniors, yet we're in August and we've already done that. The demand has been incredible," Kerr continued.

While the money brought in through OSDCP has been a welcome addition, it doesn't come close to covering VDO's monthly costs. Kerr says the organization carries an annual budget of around \$200,000 – most of which is generated by community

donations.

VDO held its 11th annual golf tournament fundraiser at the Blairhampton Golf Club last Thursday, Aug. 19 – an event that raised more than \$50,000 to support the work that goes on at the local facility.

"The support we receive from our community is tremendous. Our target heading into the fundraiser was to reach \$50,000, and we have surpassed that," Kerr said. "The generosity of this community knows no bounds."

VDO also regularly receives contributions from the likes of 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County, the Township of Dysart et al by way of subsidized rent, and a slew of anonymous community donors.

The COVID-19 pandemic didn't impact VDO much, Kerr says. The organization still managed to get people in for appointments, once they were allowed to do so, and chipped away at its lengthy wait list. The one drawback was the temporary cancellation of a partnership between VDO and the University of Toronto, which saw fourth-year dental students come to the community to gain experience by completing procedures on patients. Kerr expects that partnership to start up again in the fall.

As she looks to the future, and what the next 10 years may hold for VDO, Kerr said she wouldn't be disappointed by simply maintaining the status quo.

"I think we've done a pretty good job over the past 10 years doing the work we've done. If I had one goal, it would be to attract more dental volunteers, more dentists – that would be great," Kerr said. "Then, on the equipment side, a lot of what we have is 10 years old – some of it is even older, because it was donated to us second-hand in the first place. So it would be nice to be able to replace some of our older pieces."

For more information on VDO, or to enquire about services visit www.dental-out-reach.com, or call 705-457-3111.

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are: August 26 – Regular Council Meeting September 9 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills. ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

The next Household Hazardous Waste collection event is **Saturday, September 11, 2021**

at the Scotch Line Landfill from 8am to 11:30am. Please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill for a list of accepted items.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within the Township. Many opportunities include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development.

We are currently looking for qualified individuals to join our team in the following positions:

Building Inspector Equipment Operators

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for more information and how to apply.

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Minden Hills is selling land by Public Tender.

Deadline for submission is Friday, October 1st, 2021 on or before 3:00 PM.

For more information visit www.mindenhills.ca/tenders/, contact the Tax Collector at 705-286-1260 ext. 501.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Something to talk to with the kids for a safe ride to and from school on the school bus.

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- Wait at the designated stop in a safe place well back from the side of the road.
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- If you cross the street to get on the bus when the bus comes, wait until it has come to a complete stop. The bus driver will make sure all the traffic stops. The stop arm will be out and the red lights will be flashing. Watch the
- driver. When the driver knows it is safe, he or she will signal you to cross, but watch for traffic yourself. Walk, don't run.
- Hold the hand rail as you get on the bus.
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 Talk quietly. The driver must concentrate to
- drive the bus safely.

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- No fighting, shouting or playing in or arounthe bus.

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- To cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead at least 10 giant steps (three metres).
 Cross only when the driver gives a signal.
 Cross the street in single file.
- If you drop something near the bus, don't pick
- it up. Tell the driver or another adult first.

 If everyone is getting off the bus, the people
- at the front leave first. Do not push.
- Be familiar with the bus driver's rules for emergencies.



Bringin' the blues

Four-time Canadian Harmonica Player of the Year Harpdog Brown made his return to Minden on Thursday, Aug. 19, playing to a raucous crowd at the Dominion Hotel. Harpdog treated those in attendance to a two-hour set, jam-packed with classics he has made famous over a career that has spanned four decades. Alberta-based musician Charlie Jacobson joined Harpdog in concert, playing both guitar and drums - at the same time. /MIKE BAKER Staff.



THAT'S A FACT FOR SHORE

"Prevention of algal blooms is better than treatment."

- David Biello, Scientific American, July 2014

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Federal funding opportunity for County tourism sector

by DARREN LUM

Times Staff

There's still plenty of time for area businesses and communities to apply for tourism relief funding offered by the federal government to help pay for future projects or capital investments.

With \$120 million of \$500 million available over two years for successful Southern Ontario region applicants through Canada's regional development agencies and Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada, there's plenty for local entrepreneurs to get excited about.

The three potential successful applicants must fall into one of these categories - as a key supplier and operator in the visitor experience; representative of a defined tourism cluster or tourism dependant community; and offer an anchor product or service in a destination.

This funding, however, is not available to restaurants, retailers and hotel chains. The accepted projects will focus on product development and destination development.

The Haliburton County Development Corporation's program and operations coordinator, Heather Reid is available to help applicants make their case to gain access to the federal funding, which is part of a \$1 billion package proposed in the budget from 2021.

"HCDC is certainly here to provide [help], answer questions, provide feedback on applications, help people navigate the rules and all that kind of stuff," she said. "The one challenging piece about both of these funds is that businesses, or not-for-profits have to be

Although the majority of businesses in the Highlands area are sole-proprietorship businesses, there are options with partnering.

"Although, I also think in our area we're pretty good at partnering, so people think creatively about that. The nice thing with this fund is it's pretty significant dollars," she

Per the Government of Canada, businesses could receive non-repayable contributions of up to \$100,000 for up to 50 per cent of eligible costs, or fully repayable contributions up to \$500,000 for up to 75 per cent of eligible costs. Not-for-profit organizations and Indigenous entities (not generating profits) are eligible for non-repayable contributions of up to \$500,000. The funding given will be based on the minimum amount required to carry out a proposed project.

There are several definitions outlined within the applications that businesses can fall under. Reid explained an "anchor" product is the CN Tower in Toronto, or the Sculpture Forest in Haliburton, while a "cluster" can be an organization that represents different businesses and interests.

The HCDC, which provides support to businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and municipalities through loans, counselling, funding, and community economic development has been active in raising awareness about the fund.

"We've tried to be proactive with working with the County tourism office to get the word out and certainly communicating with our clients at HCDC. So, I'm having a backand-forth with probably, I'm going to say eight or nine organizations that are looking at the applications right now," she said.

Announced back in July, the timing for businesses wasn't particularly ideal, with summer demands for services and products in this area are at its highest. However, there's still time to submit an application, with the government, as yet, not implementing a deadline.

"It is a rolling intake so people can certainly, if they're thinking more like the fall, they're welcome to reach back out and we can check in with [the federal government] about the status of the funds at that time, but they're not looking at really announcing any funds until, I would guess, probably early October. So, people do have some time if it's feeling like 'how the heck can I put in an application in the middle of July?' There's still time to get something in and think it through," she said.

Reid believes this money is an opportunity for businesses to follow through with capital project ideas.

"So for an area like ours that's so heavily reliant on tourism, I think it's an opportunity to get some capital funds, some capital investment in some of the resources that already draw people. So, if you think of where events happen and what kind of infrastructure would be helpful to be able to enhance those for tourism [then you have a good case] because, again, this fund is really talking about developing a destination and modernizing and enhancing 'tourism products'," she said.

Reid believes there are local businesses that have already invested in capital improvements related to opening or reopening during the pandemic, which could be partially or completely refunded.

"That's the other nice thing about this fund is you can claim expenses back to April 19, 2021," she said.

This new fund is also about making 2022 prosperous, Reid said.

"We often think of the tourism season as just the summer, but it's also how you can develop different types of tourism offerings and destinations all year round. So it's not limited ... we've talked about summer examples, but it's not limited to that by any stretch," she said. "It could be about infrastructure for winter tourism and attract people here for the year when we don't normally see lots of traffic."

Winter tourism is more than just snowmobiling here, she points out.

Over 10 years, she said, there has been an increased demand for pursuits different than the typical winter activities like snowmobiling. Snowshoeing and dogsledding have certainly increased in popularity, Reid said. Year round draws includes the many art studios, she added. She commends Haliburton County for creating the winter edition of the Hike Haliburton Festival, which expands upon our usual winter draws and offerings.

Although it is less relevant for this area, there is also the Jobs and Growth Fund that enables not-for-profits and for-profits a repayable option for funding activities that support the transition to a green economy; foster an inclusive recovery; preserve Canada's competitiveness and future-proof small and medium-sized enterprises through digital adoption and strengthen capacity in sectors critical to Canada's recovery and growth.

"So, if you had a project that you were

see HCDC page 13



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Acknowledgement and refelection

MIKE BAKER

HIS WEEK, I had the pleasure of covering a special ceremony celebrating the raising of the Pride flag at Minden Hills Town Hall.

It was a well-attended event, with around 50 people on hand to watch representatives from Minden Pride, with support from some local dignitaries, fly their flag in a move that kicks off a week's worth of Pride-centred celebrations in the community.

Love, acceptance and freedom – three words that define the Pride movement in 2021, and, I'm happy to say, largely, represent the views and feelings of most forward-thinking people in today's society.

But it hasn't always been that way. The LGBTQ community has been

marginalized for centuries. It's only in the past 50 or so years that steps have been taken, officially, to recognize people for who they are, and who they love.

It's incredible – and for all the wrong reasons – to think that, prior to May 14, 1969, if you were a homosexual living in Canada, you could be charged... Simply for being gay. It wasn't until

1973 that homosexuality was removed as a 'disorder' from the Diagnostics and Statistics Manual of Mental Disorders.

Even in the late 70s and early 80s, when the first Pride marches were being organized in the likes of Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto, homosexuality was very much a taboo subject. It remained taboo, amongst the general public, for decades. I would surmise that is only in the past 15 or 20 years that this mindset has changed.

Growing up in the UK, homosexuality was frowned upon. I attended an allmale high school, and there were a couple of classmates of mine who have since come out as gay, but didn't feel anywhere near comfortable enough to have done so back then. And, honestly, I don't blame them. There was one kid in particular who was viciously bullied for the entirety of his five-year high school

stay, simply because of his sexual orientation.

It's embarrassing for me reflecting back on those times, because I was part of the problem. While I didn't engage in the bullying, I didn't step in to stop it either.

I also remember using homophobic slurs in general conversation with friends and thinking nothing of it. They weren't used to put down people of a certain sexual orientation. Instead, if someone did something that I didn't like, they were 'gay.' Or if something happened that I didn't like, it was 'gay.'

Eventually, I grew up. Things that seemed normal to me then, are incomprehensible now. No longer will I simply stand by and watch if something wrong is happening.

I know this column took something of a dark turn, and that wasn't my intention when I set out to write this, but I do think it's important to acknowledge and reflect on past behaviours and recognize they were wrong. That's the only way that we can change.

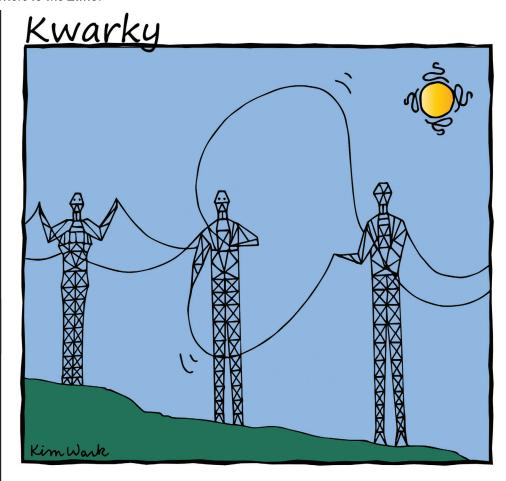
There has been significant change in

Canada over the past 25 years – sexual orientation was included in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1995), same-sex couples were given the right to adopt (1995 in Ontario), same-sex marriage was legalized (2003).

And, while some will likely have put this down to political pandering, there has been acknowledgment too. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in 2017, offered a formal apology on behalf of the Canadian government for unjustly convicting individuals for engaging in consensual same-sex relationships.

I'm proud to say that, today, I live in a place where this sort of acknowledgement, acceptance and, crucially, change is so prevalent. Where it's celebrated.

Check out www.mindenpride.ca for a full itinerary of activities going on in Haliburton County this week.



New wave

ONG AGO, when I started canoeing on lakes, there were just a few things a paddler needed to know. You needed to know the importance of a low centre of gravity, and how to steer, track in a straight line, load, portage, and carry a canoe. Then you needed to know a few efficient paddle strokes, as well as how to deal with high winds and waves. It was kind of easy.

These days, the most important skill a canoeist needs is how to respond appropriately to wake boats and jet skis that pass by too close.

Some new canoeists handle this uncomfortable situation by immediately turning the canoe's bow into the tsunami-like assault of approaching waves that emanate from the wake boat or jet ski. Then, they say a final prayer and brace themselves for the bouncy ride that is about to come – and try to remember how the people in the *Poseidon Adventure* survived.

That's a fairly reasonable strategy. But experienced canoeists respond more appropriately, by shaking their fists and yelling a long, string of curse words that

can be heard by everyone on the lake except the people racing by.

It is not as easy as it sounds.
For instance, if you hold your hand too high while shaking a fist, it is quite possible that the operator of the watercraft passing by you too close at breakneck speed might think you are giving them a friendly wave that says, "Rock on!"

Also, if you do not enunciate well enough for them to lip read, they just might think that you are saying, "Please, send more of your big wakes in the direction of our precarious craft so our ride is even more memorable and exciting."

The problem is, if you time either of these things wrong, they might never see or hear you at all because you are in the deep trough of one of the waves they have unleashed upon you. Or the lake itself. So, opportunity missed.

Which brings me to my point. It all boils down to poor communication.

Even so, some experienced canoeists will tell you not to worry about this. For, they would say, there is no better way to send

a message than by throwing a paddle.

And, while this is true, I strongly advise against this. First off, not that many of us are that good at determining the proper lead to hit a speeding wake boat or jet ski. Second, no matter what the situation, it is really hard to justify throwing a paddle just because a boat is passing too close – unless you bring an

extra one.

Also, I don't think it is fair to assign blame here. After all, how is a jet ski or wake boat operator supposed to know that they make an annoying and dangerous wake – I mean now that the loons are no longer on the lake to tell them. Also, in their defense, it's hard to hear the occupants of a canoe screaming in terror over all that engine noise.

Still, in this day and age where we all try to get along, it would be nice if these fast watercraft gave people in kayaks and canoes more of a wide berth.

I mean we all go out there to relax and no one in a canoe ever really wants to flip



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

INOTHERWORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Lessons from long-neck critters

THENEVER I click on a newspaper website, or switch on the TV news, I see someone cradling an AK47 or some similar killing

Another click takes me to news of more shootings in the Ant Hill – the place most people call Toronto. There have been 248 shootings and firearms discharges in that city so far this year resulting in 125 injuries or deaths.

Globally, 560,000 people died in interpersonal and collective violence in 2016, says the Small Arms Survey produced by a Swiss study group. About 385,000 of them were the victims of intentional homicides, 99,000 were casu-

alties of war and the rest a variety of causes.



JIM POLING SR. From Shaman's Rock

Ours is a violent world. So much so that I wonder if we humans actually are more violent than the wild animals, most of which kill for food. Some don't kill at all, restricting their diets to plants.

Take for instance giraffes. They eat leaves, vines and fruits, although in desperate times have been known to grab something meaty.

Giraffes set a good example for we humans, not just for eating healthier but for living peacefully. Those long-neck critters live in loose, open herds, doing their own thing, or just going with the flow.

They get along without leaders to tell them where to go, and what to do. And, they are not territorial, a trait that gets humans in a lot of trouble.

Besides being gentle and graceful, giraffes are quiet, never causing noisy uproars. They are not known to roar, growl or howl. The most any researchers have ever heard from a giraffe is a grunt, which could be translated as:

Because giraffes have little to say, some people assume they must be stupid. They are not dumb; they communicate not with their voices, but by touching and eye signalling each other. They identify each other by their spots, which are different in each giraffe.

They often hang around villages in southern Africa where folks consider them gentle giants who seldom do any damage and don't cause anyone to be

Giraffes fooled the early Romans, who first became acquainted with them when Julius Caesar brought one back from Alexandria, Egypt. The Romans thought that the strange beasts, which they called camelopards because of their brownish flagstone-like patches, would make vicious opponents for the

Imagine the spectacle! A short, muscular gladiator with shield in one hand, battle axe in the other, staring up at a 16-foot-tall beast that could sit on him and crush him into the sand.

However, giraffes are lovers, not fighters, and any brought into the killing ring likely just stared at the odd little men standing beneath them. The Colosseum crowds no doubt were disappointed.

Staring is what giraffes do today when confronted by lions that want to eat them. A herd of giraffes will stand and stare patiently at lions that come looking for a meal. The giraffes have learned that lions will not attack when they are being watched.

So, there is much we can learn from these peaceful beasts. Diet is obvious. A mature male giraffe weighs roughly 2,500 pounds. He has grown all that muscle, bone and sinew without ever tasting a Big Mac, fries, or pepperoni pizza. Acacia leaves, and other greenery, suit him just fine.

Getting along with each other is another lesson. Males might get into a serious neck wrestling match over a female but these encounters are not usually overly violent.

Yes, there is much to learn from watching and listening to animals. As A. A. Milne, the author who created Winnie-the-Pooh, is reported to have said: "Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem.

One of the problems for giraffes is trophy hunting. Between 2006 and 2015, trophy hunters legally imported into the United States 3,744 giraffe hunting trophies, and thousands of giraffe parts such as skins, bones and bone carvings.

There are an estimated 117,000 giraffes remaining in Africa, according to the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. They are considered endangered because populations have decreased by roughly 30 per cent in recent times.

We need to keep them around. They are good teachers, and we humans have much to learn.

letters to the editor

Have an open mind about vaccination skepticism

To the Editor,

The following letter is in response to the letter 'Collective Effort for Vaccination' written by Sean Pennylegion and published in the Aug. 11 edition of the Minden Times.

To be so dismissive of anyone having legitimate concerns at this time, and lump them into the ranks of uninformed, lazy, conspiracy theorists is, frankly, insulting. I personally find it concerning that the Times even published Mr. Pennylegion's regressive opinion. We should all be gravely concerned over the slippery slope that is the vaccine passport, or any sort of medical mandate that would segregate our society.

Whenever you have a new medical treatment being introduced into the population on such a massive scale, using a brand new technology, rushed to market in a fraction of the time it takes to develop and establish safety for traditional vaccines, authorized only for emergency use, and touted as the only viable option, it is very healthy to ask questions and even to be skeptical.

Unlike a traditional vaccine, this injection is designed to reduce severity of symptoms in the recipient, not directly prevent transmission. For proof of this, one need look no further than the vaccine aftercare handout given along with the injection, published by the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit. It explicitly reminds anyone receiving the shot that in order to protect themselves and others, they must continue to take precautions such as wearing a mask, staying six feet away from others, washing hands frequently, and getting tested for COVID if they feel ill. The recent rise in COVID cases among vaccinated individuals (many of whom have been throwing caution to the wind with their false sense of security) seems to suggest that the shot isn't delivering all that is expected of it. And like any medical treatment, it is by no means devoid of risk. (Please refer to the Centre for Disease Control website, specifically the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, which reports a mere estimated 1 per cent of reactions to all brands of the COVID vaccine).

People will argue that the risks of the vaccine outweigh the risks of COVID to an individual or society, but this statement simply cannot be verified yet. What is easy to verify however, is that the survival rate for the average person who contracts COVID is extremely high.

Hundreds of scientists, immunologists, researchers, doctors, health professionals and even vaccine developers around the world are expressing concerns over the vaccine itself, as well as the blocking of alternative preventive measures and treatments. But invariably these once-trusted professionals are being censored and dismissed as quacks. Why is this? This unwillingness to discuss all possible approaches to combat COVID should in itself be a red flag, and reason for caution and skepticism.

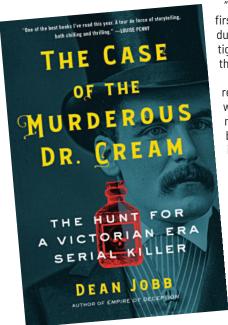
Mr. Pennylegion suggests the vaccine passport would enforce an approach he calls "Inclusion by vaccination" but let's call it what it actually is: a culture of exclusion, discrimination, and punishment, with very little demonstrable justification. Suggesting that the unvaccinated be disallowed access to basic necessities such as groceries* would be a hideous overreach, nothing short of totalitarianism, would divide us into a two-class society and force an increased crime rate. We could have a civil war on our hands, all over a medical intervention that merely reduces severity of symptoms and is not proven to halt

In a free and democratic society, bodily control cannot be handed over to the state. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the right to informed consent, and the Nuremberg Code aren't things that can be simply ignored when it seems inconvenient.

> Rose Randall Minden

* Editor's note - All grocery stores and many retailers offer curbside pickup, which, we understand, will not require individuals to provide proof of vaccination.

HCPL's Nonfic Pick - August



"When a doctor does go wrong, he is the first of criminals," Sherlock Holmes observed during one of his most puzzling murder investigations. Incredibly, at the time the words of the world's most famous

fictional detective appeared in print, a real-life Canadian doctor was murdering women in London's downtrodden Lambeth neighbourhood. Dr. Thomas Neill Cream had been a suspect in the deaths of two women in Canada, and had killed as many as four people in Chicago before he arrived in London in 1891 and began using pills laced with strychnine to kill prostitutes. The Lambeth Poisoner, as he was dubbed, became one of the most prolific serial killers in history. In this fascinating book, Dean Jobb reveals how bungled investigations, corrupt officials and failed prosecutions allowed Cream to evade detection or freed him to kill, again and again. It offers an inside account of Scotland Yard's desperate search for a killer as brazen

and efficient as Jack the Ripper.

Jamie Schmale hopes to 'seize opportunity' in upcoming election

by STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Times

Jamie Schmale has an opportunity on Sept. 20 -- to be re-elected for a third term as Member of Parliament for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, this time, maybe, as a member of the ruling party.

But when asked about the election, the Conservative puts his own ambitions aside and speaks frankly; he believes a federal election now isn't in Canadians' best interests.

A motion passed in the House of Commons this spring, he said, called for MPs to get through the pandemic before an election is called.

"Unfortunately, the prime minister saw an opening in the polls and he decided to call an election," Schmale said, arguing the decision was irresponsible given that an election would turn attention away from forest fires ravaging British Columbia and the crisis in Afghanistan. "He (Prime Minister Justin Trudeau) does not deserve a majority (government.)."

But, given the situation, Schmale is prepared to campaign. The one-time radio news anchor is seeking a third term in office, after two terms as an Opposition MP. He was first elected to serve the riding in 2015 and was re-elected in 2019, when the Andrew Scheer-led Conservatives won 119 seats and bumped Trudeau's Liberals from a majority to minority

Among the four pillars of the Conservative Party's platform is a call for greater accountability in Ottawa.

"Unfortunately, we have to do this," Schmale said. "We have to make laws that make it tougher for politicians to cozy up to groups like WE and punish their enemies and reward their friends."

The quote is in reference to a story that high ranking Liberals supported the WE Charity because of personal family ties. Although Trudeau was eventually cleared by an ethics probe, the affair cost finance minister Bill Morneau his job.

With Erin O'Toole now leading the Conservative Party, Schmale has an opportunity to endorse a new candidate for



Conservative nominee Jamie Schmale will be seeking to secure a third term as MP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock in the Sept. 20 federal election.

prime minister. Schmale acknowledges it's been tough for the Conservatives to promote O'Toole, as the pandemic has limited him to mostly virtual town hall-like events, but says, "one thing I've learned, is never count out a military vet."

He continued, "You need someone who takes this job seriously. He came from a blue-collar family. He's the upbringing of a single parent. He's had to fight for everything he has

Schmale said he supported O'Toole in the two previous Conservative Party leadership races and believes that having a prime minister in a neighbouring riding -- O'Toole represents Durham -- would be advantageous for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock.

"He's someone who knows rural Canada. His chief of staff has a cottage in this area. He knows what's going on."

When asked about his top priority, if re-elected, Schmale points out that his first task would be the same, whether his party is part of the government or still in Opposition; that is to speak with ministers in charge of rural affairs to advocate for improved high-speed internet access and cellular service in the riding.

An ongoing project, known as the Eastern Ontario Regional Network, has made gains in this area, but more work needs to be done, Schmale said, as there are still some service area

"Their goal now, is 'let's fix this for the foreseeable future' so we're not dealing with this every five years, so we can say 'hey, our work is done for decades."

Moving the country -- and the riding -- into economically successful post-pandemic life is also a priority.

Schmale touted the Conservative plan to support small businesses that were hurt by lockdowns. That includes a "GST holiday" in December, to encourage shoppers to buy local and other incentives for shoppers to support traditional "brick and mortar" stores.

Schmale is optimistic that good economic times are ahead after months of pandemic hardships, which is why he's encouraging voters to think about which party is best suited to move the economy ahead, and pay down the debt that Canada

"We print money out of thin air and we can't do that forever -- we need to get some fiscal responsibility back," he said, adding that the Conservatives are proposing a plan to balance the federal budget within five to 10 years, based on having a strong economy.

"We can start scaling back and actually balance the budget and be responsible, so kids now aren't facing massive cuts later or massive taxincreases," Schmale concluded.



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Return to curl plan for season include proof of vaccination

by DARREN LUM

Times Staff

As companies and professional sports teams such as the Toronto Blue Jays move ahead with mandatory vaccination for employees and fans to enter their buildings and venues, the Minden Curling Club is planning on hosting curlers this year with a plan that will borrow from the Haliburton Curling Club's plan to return to play.

The Haliburton Curling Club president Kent Milford said this isn't part of trying to violate anyone's human rights, as it is part of an effort to keep everyone of its more than 200 members safe.

"I think it's an unassailable position to say we're putting the health and safety above all. We're maximizing safety and maximizing health and the best way we can do that is to say we're all vaccinated," he said. "So, human rights? I don't think anybody has the right to affect someone else's health and unvaccinated people, I think the science is clear, are putting everyone's health at risk as well as their own. That's the core to this."

Part of the plan to return to play in October includes respect for privacy.

When registering, returning members and prospective members are being asked to



seen by the the president and an individual

to curl, for us to have the safest environment possible, we're asking you to be vaccinated and be willing to show it." Last year, the club took a stance against allowing curlers, which included 15 curlers

He continues, "We don't force anyone to

do anything, but we're saying, if you want

that handles information technology.

from the Minden club, from curling anywhere but Haliburton.

"Ultimately, we were vindicated for taking

that position because other places ultimately followed and other leagues, in Toronto and [places] like that, got shut down," he said.

The Minden

Curling Club is looking to open its

with a return to

Club, who was

the only club in

curl plan that will

take cues from the

Haliburton Curling

Haliburton County

protocols last year.

to have a season

with COVID-19

Last year, there

were 15 Minden

KAREN LONDON

club members,

who curled in

Haliburton. /

Staff

doors this season

So far he said he had one prospective member voice an opposition to the proof of vaccination required.

Although there is an upcoming meeting between health unit representatives and representatives from the clubs of Haliburton, Minden, Wilberforce, Fenelon Falls and

see COUNTY page 11



submit their proof of vaccination electroni-

cally to a club email address that was cre-

ated specifically for this year, which is only



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County curling clubs focus on keeping everyone safe

from page 10

Bobcaygeon later this week on Aug. 26 in Haliburton, the club in Haliburton has already been telling anyone interested in curling to prove their vaccination.

Milford said the club is working on its plan to return to curl, but will abide by whatever the health unit recommends.

"Tell us what we need to do. We'll do anything you want us to do - you're the boss - but this is what we think we want to do and what we'd like to have is ... we'll retain social distancing and when it comes to the bar we'd like to be able to have a six-foot social distancing rule, or invoke the same rules that restaurants now have in terms of a bar. Keep your space, but when you're sitting at a table you can do so reasonably with other patrons," he said.

As previously mentioned, the Minden Curling Club is also looking to reopen.

Club president Robert Peacock said the members are ready to return to play and plan to follow the Haliburton

"If you want to curl, get vaccinated," he said. "Our first letter out to our club members was you have to be vaccinated to curl."

Before taking the mandatory vaccination stance there were plenty of "maybes," but now there are close to 20 per cent more curlers ready to register, he said.

Peacock points out there are other curling clubs now, who have learned about the Haliburton plan as a possible model

"It boils down to the health department," he said. "I mean Kent has a great [rapport] with them. Kent is a great speaker and can write things up [well] and he said, 'Robert, you just do what you do and I'll look after this part of it and we'll just go on."

At the club's recent board meeting, they decided to not have a junior curling program for curlers under the age of 12. However any individual 12 and over that is double vaccinated will be permitted to register. This includes the curlers, who are part of the Red Wolves Team.

The president said how many curlers register will be the determinant to what leagues and offerings will be available this season.

"Are we going to [have] enough numbers to operate every league, or we going to have to bring it down a bit just so that it's feasible for everybody to curl? You don't want to go out to the ice with only 10 people out there," he said.

The club in Minden expects to be ready for curling the week after Thanksgiving.

Numbers this season will be affected by what rules the health unit wants to be implemented, he added.

"If they came back and said, 'No, we've decided that you've got to wear masks on the ice.' Then it will very significantly impact the number of people who decide to curl this year," he said.

Milford said members are hoping to not wear masks and believe it can be safely done with proof of vaccination.

After hosting a little more than 50 per cent of members, starting on Dec. 1 with COVID-19 protocols, which included sanitization and temperature checks upon entry, the club is confident about moving forward with its plan.

Milford hopes other clubs in the area follow their lead to enable competitions that includes members from outside

"If other curling clubs decide they don't think that vaccination can be mandated then their curlers won't be allowed to come here and we won't go there and it will kill the 4 [Town] League and it'll definitely impact any bonspiels," he said.

The 4 Town League included members from all four clubs: Minden, Haliburton, Bobcaygeon and Fenelon Falls. Milford said there are a few challenges with the alter-

Violets

4092 Kawartha Lakes County Road 121 Kinmount (beside the LCBO)

nate concept of employing an honour system for proof of that." vaccination.

"People have said to me I do not want to curl if I can't be sure the person next to me is vaccinated and is healthy as possible," he said. "Well, the only way to be sure is to prove it and I've had individuals say, 'I'll only come back and curl if the maximum safety that I can possibly have. To me the maximum safety that you can have [is to be vaccinated]."

Wilberforce Curling Club, with its 40 members and two sheet facility, is holding off on any decisions about return to play until after the health unit meeting, said president

"That will be of importance to our decision making process from the results of that meeting," he said.

He added an executive meeting will be held following the Aug. 26 meeting, including conducting a member survey. Safety of the community and the club's members, who are anxious to curl again in Wilberforce, is our concern, he

"I'll guard that with we'll see what the response is also," he said. "Yes, I've talked to a number of our members and they're all 'are we going to curl?' They want to curl, but I want to temper that with like anything in this world we'll see what the response is towards our email, vaccination and

The fourth year president said the Haliburton club serves as a model for how things can operate safely.

"We're learning from the way things went for those guys when they were opened last year," he said. "We want to open, but we have to be aware of the costs involved ... to do the right things and keep it under the health guidance to keep it sterile and sanitize with the rocks and the boards and social distancing etc. that would all fall under the ministry

With the club's building owned by the township, the club is required to defer to the guidelines that are outlined by the Ministry of Health.

Fitch said it came down to a lack of club meetings, as to why the Wilberforce club was a "little more cautious" and didn't just go ahead with plans like Haliburton.

"At this point we just haven't had as many meetings as those folks," he said. "On our last executive meeting the board of health was one of the things [and] protecting our membership was a big a question. One of the items about it was to talk to them and that's what's happening. We're not looking to put the horse before the cart type of thing and that's we are waiting until next Thursday [Aug. 26] and then things will accelerate from there."



Federal Election 2021

Green candidate wants to offer an alternative to 'frustrated voters'

by STEPHEN PETRICK *Special to the Times*

Angel Godsoe says she has noticed a worrying trend in recent years. As she speaks to voters, she finds that many are so frustrated with the big parties that they're considering not voting at all.

"That disappointed me. It made me sad and it made me want to find out why," said Godsoe, the Green Party candidate for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock in the Sept. 20 federal election.

That longing for answers drove her to become involved with the Greens. She realized that the party represents an option for voters who feel disconnected from the Liberals, Conservatives and New Democratic Party.

She's trying to get the message out that voters who care about the environment and other social issues, have a viable option and shouldn't feel they have to "vote against" a candidate or not vote at all.

"We should be able to vote based on our conscience," she said, optimistically.

Godsoe, a mother of nine children, runs the Lindsay-based horse boarding stable Heaven's Gait. It's her first time running in an election, but she worked on the campaign of Elizabeth Fraser, who ran for the Greens in the same riding in the 2019 federal election.

Fraser finished fourth in the race with 8.4 per cent of the vote. It marked the highest percentage of votes the Green Party had earned in the riding, since become a consistent party in 2004.



Godsoe feels this could be a breakthrough election for the Green Party. She said that she and other Green Party candidates are in the races to win and not just make a dent in poll-

She feels Canadians are now, literally, see-

ing with their own eyes the effects of climate change, through natural disasters. Karen Hillis, the CEO of the local Green Party association, while sitting in on the interview, added " if you look at the

last three decades of politics in Canada and

Angel Godsoe

was recently

selected

to serve as

the Green

candidate in

Lakes-Brock

Haliburton-

Kawartha

during the

upcoming

federal

election.

the flipping back and forth, we have yet to, as a country, meet our emissions (reduction) targets.

There's no time - it is now or never. This is the moment where people have to vote for what they want."

That said, the Green Party is not solely focused on the environment. The party's platform is also based on helping the country recover from the pandemic.

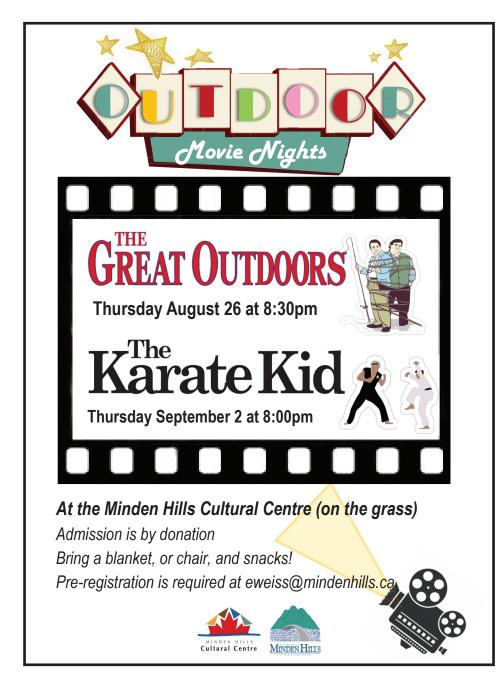
"We want an economic recovery that is fair and just for everyone," Godsoe said. "Even before COVID we had ideas like forgiving student debt, the livable income. As we recover from COVID, we don't want to have people left behind and struggling. Our ethics have been this way all along, to be fair and inclusive ... let the small businesses recover and give them incentive to stay in business and to ride this out."

It's been a tumultuous year for the Green Party. New party leader Annamie Paul has had to withstand internal opposition - there was nearly a non-confidence vote within Green Party members, and other legal battles have devoted resources away from the campaign -- but Godsoe stresses she was not one of the people dissatisfied with the new leader.

"She's wonderful; I'm a big fan of her and I love her," she said. "She's passionate, she's articulate. She's really in touch with the needs and the values of her constituents."

Godsoe asks voters that they give Paul a chance -- and give the Green Party a chance.

'We need all the exposure we can get," she said. "We need the word out there that there is an alternative."







Mozart staged at Abbey

Highlands Opera Studio singers Sara Schabas, as Zerlina, from left, Brenden Friesen, as Il Commendatore/ Masetto, Geoffrey Schellenberg, as Don Giovanni, Dylan Wright, as Leporello, Tamar Simon, as Donna Elvira, Lauren Margison, as Donna Anna and River Guard, as Don Ottavio stage The Leporello Diaries (a shortened version of Mozart's opera, Don Giovanni) on opening night on Thursday, Aug. 19 at Abbey Gardens, located outside West Guilford. There was also a second performance on Friday, Aug. 20. The Highlands Opera Studio provides participants with an operatic experience that equips them with the skills to pursue a career in opera./DARREN LUM Staff

HCDC, a resource for funding applicants

from page 5

really ready to move on and it would be helpful to create some better cash flow over the time frame of the implementation of the project this might be a fit, but it's a bit more of a challenge with the nature and the size of the businesses we have in Haliburton," she said.

For not-for-profits it is up to 90 per cent non-repayable, while businesses could receive interest-free repayable contributions up to 50 per cent, but both still need to fit within the application criteria.

Reid encourages anyone interested in applying for either opportunity to call the HCDC.

"We can certainly put people in touch with a specific [federal] representative and I'm happy to provide feedback on applications. We can't write the application, obviously. Partly it's the passion that people have for their businesses or for what they're doing that really needs to translate into the applications, but we can provide feedback, absolutely," she said.

Reid points out HCDC is generally always available to help, whether it's brainstorm ideas, suggestions, facilitate connections within HCDC, or different levels of government.

"It's really an open door, whether it's a business startup or expansion or survival. It's kind of what we're here to do is







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We all love grass. It looks nice, is great under foot, super to play on and most of us have fond memories of doing some of our favourite things on grass.

So why do the lake health experts tell us not to use it around lakes in the Highlands? Are they just spoil sports or do they have valid reasons for their concerns with grass in lake country? Here's the scoop....

Commonly used grass varieties are not native in lake country.

Non Native plants are not well suited to life in the Highlands and therefore need more work and additives than native plants.

• Water – something the experts say we may soon be short of

• Fertilizer- polluting our water and costing

• Cutting and trimming – adding to Global warming

These extra inputs add nutrients to our lakes increasing algae and weed growth, thereby decreasing the oxygen that fish need.

Grass does not provide any habitat for the species that we all love such as frogs, toads, butterflies, humming birds etc.

Perhaps the biggest downside with grass is that it harms the health of our precious lakes. Why is it that there are all those reasons above but the biggest one is that grass does not do a good job of intercepting and absorbing nutrients before they get to our lakes. Nutrients such as Phosphorus come from:

- Our bodies, through our septic systems
- · Our pets, fertilizer use, wildlife such as

geese, birds etc.

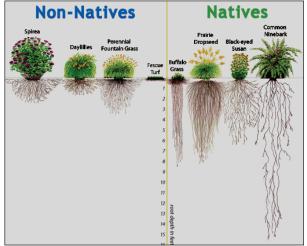
• Rainfall – has two to four times as much Phosphorous as lake water

This picture shows why native plants absorb far more nutrients than non-native species such as grass

While grass roots extend mere inches into the soil, the roots of native species extend many feet into the soil, searching for and absorbing nutrients such as phosphorous before they can damage our lakes. These long roots also do a better job of preventing erosion.

So why not take an area of your grass and plant it with native plants to help protect our lakes! You can start with a small area and then add more area over the years. Every little bit will help your lake where you, your kids and grandchildren can make new memories!

Author Paul MacInnes is Chair of the



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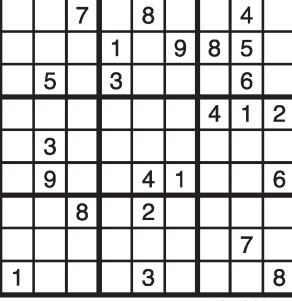
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Answers on page 16

Federal Election 2021

Liberal candidate Judi Forbes offers business mindset and small-town heart

by STEPHEN PETRICK Special to the Times

Judi Forbes tells people she "has a business head, but a social heart."

This personality, she feels, makes her the ideal candidate for Member of Parliament for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, when Canadians go to the polls on Sept. 20.

Forbes is running under the Liberal banner again, two years after being defeated by Conservative Jamie Schmale in the 2019 federal election.

"I grew up in a small town in Southern Ontario, It was the kind of town where your reputation meant everything. We had fun, we worked hard, we helped out neighbours,' she said. "So I have some small-town values that I've carried with me my whole life, whether it's in my parenting career or business career."

The town Forbes is referring to is Galt, Ont., which is now part of Cambridge. She would later have a lengthy career in the banking industry in Toronto – she held senior roles for TD – before moving, with her husband, to Brock Township. Forbes was operating a bed and breakfast from her home in Beaverton, until the pandemic hit. After it became more of a home for her four young adult children, who, like many their age, were struggling through the COVID year. In Beaverton, she also serves as treasurer for the Brock Board of Trade.

Beating Schmale this time will be a tall order. In 2019, Forbes won 26 per cent of the vote, compared to Schmale's 49 per cent. To win this time, she'll likely have to earn 16,000 more votes.



Liberal candidate Judi Forbes is returning for a second stab at winning the Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock riding.

"I do have to make up a big gap," she said. "But this riding is changing ... Every time we run, we make up more ground, there are more and more progressive thinking people that are moving into this riding, so it's not undoable."

Forbes says she's attracted to the Liberal Party because she feels it's the only party that can appropriately balance the needs of the economy with the needs of the environment. She also believes Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, seeking re-election for a second time, has the right personality to lead Canada.

"I honestly believe he has a kind heart and truly cares; it's not just about politics and winning, it's about Canada and doing the best for Canadians and our reputation worldwide," she said.

She points out that that the Trudeau government was in a tough spot when the pandemic hit but acted quickly to set up programs like the Canadian Emergency Relief Benefit. "I think Canadians understand that. We took early and strong action, without that people would have lost their homes.'

Forbes now hopes to have an opportunity to fix problems that the pandemic has highlighted.

With a parent in a long-term care home, herself, she feels more attention needs to be given to that sector.

"There was a toll that was taken and it was devastating," she said. "There needs to be a focus on long-term care and national standards set."

She is also a proponent of social programs that can help people escape poverty, noting that a Universal Basic Income pilot project once run in Lindsay, but scrapped by the provincial Progressive Conservative government, is worth exploring.

"That program helped so many folks in that community," he said. "It was not a handout. They (program participants receiving money) went back to school or it covered them for a short time when they were disabled. People will use this program for a short period of time to get them over a difficult time and then they move on - 99.99 per cent of people want to work and contribute.'

Forbes believes that now is a good time for an election. With Canada, hopefully, moving out of a pandemic, Canadians need to ask themselves which party should have the right to govern now.

"The Canada we were in prior to the pandemic, it didn't work for everyone," she said.

"The pandemic has really illustrated the (inequalities) in scale for women, minorities, LGBTQ (communities). Those people have been more adversely impacted. How do we fix that? Who is the best party to do that?

Forbes argues it's the Liberal Party.

"This is the right time to have an election," she said. "We're learning how to manage this pandemic better.'



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Federal Election 2021

Miller says NDP platform 'the best for working people and families'

by STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Times

Zac Miller is back for the NDP -- and when fielding questions on the big federal election issues, whether it's health care, climate change or economics, the 24-year-old answers with confidence and conviction.

He says the NDP's Green New Deal, which would support the growth in environmentally-friendly energy projects, would boost Canada's economy by creating jobs and help meet emissions reduction targets. He also passionately pleas for new national standards for long-term care and legislation that would force private long-term care homes that fail its residents to become government run.

"This election didn't have to happen but now that it has, we're taking an opportunity to present the NDP and a realistic and achievable platform that resonates with the average person and average family," he said. "We present the most ambitious, the most worker-friendly, the most family-friendly platform."

When Miller appears on the ballot as the NDP representative for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock in the Sept. 20 federal election, it will mark his second time running. He ran in the riding as an NDP candidate in the 2018 provincial

He has since graduated with a political science degree from Ontario Tech University and is set to start working on a Masters of Information degree at the University of Toronto this fall.

He acknowledges he's the youngest candidate in the race but tries to not to make a big deal of it and instead works to convince voters that he knows the issues, is passionate and has skills and experiences that would benefit him if elected as a Member of Parliament.

He has served as a member of the Kawartha Lakes Health Coalition and has become a strong advocate for the need of small rural hospitals to remain independent and resist amalgamation into large regional health care organizations.

"I will aggressively fight and advocate for the Ross Memorial and HHHS to stay community hospitals," he said.

He also believes the federal government needs to work on solutions to ensuring young graduates, like himself, don't enter the work world carrying thousands of dollars in student debt; a problem, he says, that affects both young people and parents who support them.

At the crux of NDP strategies is a belief that the wealthy are not taxed enough and wealth must be redistributed to ensure everyone has a brighter future. Miller noted that the NDP is calling for people with wealth of \$10 million or more to be taxed an additional one per cent.

"That's one penny for every dollar above \$10 million," he said. "I don't think that's too much to ask when we have a climate emergency and a disjointed health care system."

The riding of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock is not an easy one to win for anyone not riding under a Conservative banner. The riding has gone blue federally in every election since 2004, with the NDP candidate coming in either second

But Miller, who came in second place in the 2018 provincial election, says he and his NDP colleagues are running campaigns with the intention of winning and giving voters a realistic platform to get behind.

He also believes NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, who led the party to winning 24 seats in the House of Commons in 2019, is a leader Canadians can connect with.

"Over the last few years, he's the one candidate who has



Zac Miller returns to be the NDP candidate for the NDPs in Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

connected and resonated with people," he says, adding that Singh's strategy is always to find common ground with voters and move issues forward in a positive way.

"He has the energy and know how to be an effective prime minister, if given a chance," Miller concluded.



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Abbey Retreat Centre a place where people can heal their souls

by JEREMY BORG

Special to the Times

The Abbey Retreat Centre, a long-term fixture in the Haliburton County community, has been helping those suffering with cancer, and their families, with their individual healing journeys for around five years.

The Abbey Ketreat Centre began from a vision. Two people who had experienced their own healing journeys at an establishment in Seattle had a vision for a place in Haliburton County where people could experience a healing journey of their own.

Utilizing the natural beauty of the Highlands, John and Thea Patterson(The founders of the Abbey Retreat Centre) sought to create a location that could be a place in nature where those with cancer could convene with specialists from various fields in order to improve their mental and physical health.

"People with cancer and those who care about them need support," Barb Smith-Morrison, the Executive Director for Abbey Retreat Centre said in a recent interview with the Times. "Doctor's appointments and treatments tend to a patient's physical needs but there are so many other things going on. There is anxiety, depression and fears of dying.

Because of this, the treatments used by Abbey Retreat Centre are focused on the mind, body and soul. The full experience given to those who attend retreats allows those who have been struggling with cancer to understand that they have many outlets to express themselves - even when it may seem difficult.

"The most important thing for someone who attends a

see HALIBURTON page 19



The Abbey Retreat Centre, located near West Guilford, offers spiritual and emotional supports to individuals dealing with cancer. /File photo

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Haliburton Highlands Challenge fundraiser on now, needs participation

from page 18

retreat is to understand that they are seen, heard and cared for," she said.

There are a variety of amenities offered to those who attend in-person retreats at Abbey Retreat Centre. Firstly, a team of chefs prepare nutritious meals for the retreat-goers. These meals are focused on catering to those who are experiencing specific dietary needs because of cancer, but also includes food that is nutritionally beneficial. Participants will then go through a series of activities catered to improving one's mental state. Through the use of the arts, specifically art-making and physical well-being activities, attendees are able to reconnect with a piece of themself that had previously been lost because of the struggles that come with cancer.

The practices used have beneficial uses throughout the life of someone suffering from cancer.

"All these practices, whether it's music or nature connection; all of these things go in our tool kit. They can be sustained in our lives. For example, if someone gets anxious in a doctor's appointment they can use the breathing techniques or pull out pencil crayons from their bag and do something that keeps them calm" Barb Smith-Morrison said.

Specialists from across the globe have endorsed the practices that Abbey Retreat Centre uses for their online and in-person retreats. The COVID-19 pandemic has had both positive and negative effects on The Abbey Retreat Centre. Prior to quarantine measures, in-person retreats were the only options given.

Specialty and regular retreats were run throughout the year, with roughly 60 participants annually. However, due to COVID, a significant portion of programming had to be moved online. The success of online programming, however, has allowed individuals throughout Canada and the U.S to attend retreats. Online retreats were beneficial for a variety of reasons, mainly the ability for those who were too sick to travel or those who live far away to experience the sense of belonging that comes with a retreat.

Coming this fall, Abbey Retreat Centre is providing a diverse array of experiences for those with cancer to appreci-



All these practices, whether it's music or nature connection; all of these things go in our tool kit. They can be sustained in our lives.

- BARB SMITH-MORRISON

ate. In addition to the in-person retreats, online programming will be run semiregularly. Expansion is not free of cost. With new programming comes new expenses that had previously not been accounted for. In addition, a significant waitlist has piled up due to the lack of availability during the pandemic. Considering that the funding for Abbey Retreat Centre is mainly from donations and grants, the influx of applicants has placed significant strain on the establishment.

It is fortunate that Abbey Retreat Centre's annual fundraiser The Haliburton Highlands Challenge is currently running. Participants select any physical activity: from walking to swimming, and complete a goal by the end of the fundraiser period at the end of August.
Participants are then to request dona-

tions from friends and family to further give to their cause. The goal for The Haliburton Highlands Challenge is \$50,000 in order to fund new programs for the retreat centre, but any amount helps.

To donate, visit https://abbeyretreatcentre.ca/haliburton-highlands-chal-





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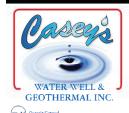
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Minden and Haliburton hospital sites are part of HHHS. Each site operates an emergency department with over 35,000 combined visits per year. The Haliburton site also has a 14-bed in patient unit which houses a diverse and variable patient population. Nursing staff have the opportunity to work at both locations in each department. Rural nursing at these locations offers professionals the opportunity to use a wide variety of skills within an exciting and fluctuating environment. As a member of the health care team, the RN has a unique role in promoting health, in preventing illness, and in helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible. The RN is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable.

QUALIFICATIONS: The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. A Certificate in Emergency Nursing, PALS, ACLS, TNCC, ENPC and added nursing skills pertinent to Emergency nursing are preferred. An ability to function independently and exercise good judgment, in addition to working well as a member of an interdisciplinary team is required. Demonstrated assessment skills and an ability to work in a high stress environment are essential for this position. To be successful, this role requires good interpersonal and communication skills, along with basic computer skills. In addition, the successful candidate must be available to work day, evening and night shifts, along with weekends and statutory holidays. An ability to attend work on a consistent basis is also a requirement.

Job Types: Full-time, Part-time, Permanent

Salary: \$34.06-\$48.53 per hour

Interested: Submit you application and resume to:

Human Resources Haliburton Highlands Health Services Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca Fax: 705-457-4609

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Dennis Everett Stamp

On Saturday, August 14, 2021, Dennis Everett Stamp, known by some as Papa and by others as Grandpa, passed peacefully as he was held in the arms of his beloved spouse Susan, and surrounded by his chosen daughters Sarah Gates, and Rachel Francoeur, and her husband Denis. Born January 22, 1953 in Minden Hills, Ontario, Dennis was predeceased by parents, Everett Delbert Stamp and Ethel Daisy Ransley, first wife Marilyn Truax Stamp, daughter Kim Stamp Reynolds (Bill), and siblings Genevieve, Hazel, Cleveland, Glen and Leon. Dennis is survived by his son, Jaime and sisters Shirley Adams (Bob) and Brenda Carlin (Frank) During the 18 years of loving each other, Dennis and Susan shared their love of country life and all things horses. The highlights of their life together were their cherished grandchildren Emma, Kaylyn, Max, Savanna and Sadie. The depth of caring in Dennis' heart touched all who took the time to know him. Every day, he is missed. Sibling family members will gather to share memories of his life on August 29, 2021.



Help Wanted

Children's Programmer - 6 month PT contract

Experience with infants and toddlers required. Must be able to assist in developing and running activities for children, be sensitive to issues affecting families and have a good understanding of the demands of motherhood. You will work as part of a team for 2 half-days per week plus planning time.

Community Outreach Assistant- 6 month PT contract

Bring resources to smaller communities in a grass-roots manner. The successful candidate will be comfortable talking to people, have a positive outlook and be able to work as part of a team. You already have a good understanding, or direct experience of, parenting on a low-income, as well as other challenges such as single parenting, social isolation, etc.

This position is 2–3 days per week and may need some flexibility in days and times. Reliable transportation is required.

For more information call 705-457-1742 and ask for the CAPC/CPNPCoordinator.



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650 OBITUARIES





Joanne Griffith (nee Bradimore)

August 19, 2021 (Resident of Coboconk)

Peacefully at her residence on Thursday morning, August 19, 2021 in her 56th year. Beloved wife of the late Robert Griffith. Loving mother of Ethan

& Brittany (Jordan). Dear sister of John (Gloria). Fondly remembered by the Griffith Family. Also lovingly remembered by her many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her loyal mother Joybelle Bradamore (2019) and her parents Ranald & Ruth Bradimore and her sister Mary Ann. Joanne was an active member of Trinity Full Gospel Church in Coboconk. She enjoyed visiting with friends, watching her kids play baseball and most of all she cherished time spent with her family. She will be missed by many.

Visitation & Private Funeral Service

Friends are invited to call at TRINITY FULL GOSPEL CHURCH 6643 Hwv. #35, Coboconk, Ontario on Monday afternoon, August 23, 2021 from 6-9 p.m. A Private Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday morning, August 24, 2021 at 11 o'clock. The church has a limited capacity. **As per COVID-19** guidelines, you are required to wear a mask and observe social distancing of 2 meters. Interment to follow Pine Grove Cemetery Norland. As an expression of sympathy, donations to Trinity Full Gospel Church would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 6644 Hwy. #35, Coboconk, Ontario (705) 454-3913.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com





Jack Hamilton Bush

(Resident of Haliburton)

Jack's metastatic lung cancer journey came to a comfortable, peaceful end with his death at the hospital in Haliburton. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Elaine Bell, his sons Chris (Melinda Burton) and Andy (Shanon Bunagan), his daughter Jackie (Don Perkins), and grandchildren Josh

Jack was predeceased by his parents Jack and Mabel Bush, and is survived by his brothers Terry (Kim), Rob (Mary Anne, deceased) and many nieces and nephews.

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful medical care Jack received from so many medical professionals over the past 21 months – Dr. Elena Mihu, oncologists Dr. Gursimran Chandhoke and Dr. Joel Broomfield, the fabulous staff in the Cancer Care Centre at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre, and the doctors and staff at the hospital in Haliburton.

In his working life Jack was an advertising executive, creative director, and writer. He used these talents in many volunteer positions in Toronto and Haliburton. He was known for his smile, his humour, his quiet ways, his creative abilities, his love of the English language and reading, his photography, and his baking, especially his chocolate chip cheesecake and turtle squares. He was surprised at the amount of influence he had on so many lives as expressed in the many notes he received just before he died.

A service will be held at a later date in St. Thomas's Anglican Church on Huron Street in Toronto.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the following organizations, or to a charity of your choice, would be appreciated: Peterborough Regional Health Centre Foundation (https://prhcfoundation.ca/), the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (https://www.hhhs.ca/foundation), the Kinmount and District Health Foundation (https://www. kdhc.ca/kdhsf/), and St. Thomas's Church (https://www.stthomas.on.ca/

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



In Loving Memory of

Jack Grexton

Passed away peacefully at home in Minden on Sunday, August 15, 2021, at the age of 73.

Beloved husband of the late Leitha (Burke). Dear father of Garrett and Kyla. Loving poppa of William and grampa of Jordyn, Jax and Elayna. Dear brother of Bonnie Burke (Bob), Duane Grexton (deceased), Betty

Ann Merling (deceased) (George) and Nancy Grexton. Fondly remembered by family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden KOM 2KO on Monday August 23rd, 2021 from 11:00 am until 12:30 pm. A Service to Celebrate Jack's Life will be held at 1:00 pm. Interment to follow at Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery. Cremation has taken place.

Please Note # Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, a limited amount of visitors will be allowed in the Funeral Home at one time and all remaining visitors will have to line up outside of the

Funeral Home. For the Memorial Service there is a limit of 75 Attendees. Social distancing with face coverings and lists of attendees, names and phone numbers are required for contact tracing.

Memorial Donations to the Scouts Canada would be appreciated by the family.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of

BALCOMBE, Fred Wavne

Peacefully at Ross Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, February 3, 2020 at the age of 68 after his second courageous battle with Cancer, beating it the first time in 2010. Beloved husband of Alice (nee Terry). Loving father of Nadine (Mark), Timothy (Amy) and Jeffrey

(Sarah). Proud grandfather of Courtney, Cassidy, Cayden, Atticus and a granddaughter on the way. Alfred will be sadly missed by his siblings Brian (Janice), Marj Steele (Garry), Judy Peel (Ron), Jimmy (Michelle) and brother in law David Loshaw (Becky). He will be fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles. Alfred was a 30 year lineman with Ontario Hydro, starting his career in Barrie, working throughout the Georgian Bay area and eventually retiring out of Minden. Post retirement he went on to work 8 years with the Georgina Bay travelling crew. He will be sadly missed by many work mates. Graveside service will be held Saturday August 28th at 1:00pm at the Fenelon Falls Cemetery, with a Celebration of Life to follow, held at the Fenelon Falls Legion, Branch 238. 23 Veterans Way, Fenelon. In memory of Alfred, donations to the Ross Memorial Hospital-Palliative care unit or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences may be expressed at www.lakelandfuneralcentre.com



Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near Still loved, still missed and very dear.





John Mulder Countrywide* emait countrywide@halhinet.on.ca. INTERNET www.halhinet.on.ca/~countrywide

Monday, September 22, 1997

Number 1803

Seniors blank Falcons

Redmen win opener

by Jerry Grozelle

In spite of a lack of pre-season play, the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Redmen senior football players showed their team colours when they played host to the Fenelon Falls Falcons. Friday's game in Haliburton saw the Redmen get off to a slow start, building momentum as the game progressed. When it was over the Redmen had a 26-0 win for their ef-

"We were a little rusty off the start," said Haliburton head coach Tim Davies. "That was indicative of the fact that we didn't have any exhibition

The Redmen were in game form by the second quarter, marching the ball all the way up field against the wind. By the half, the Redmen were in front by a 13-0 score.

"Our offensive line did a great job

for us," Davies said.

Ryan Anderson scored two touchdowns, one of which was a 91-yard run on a sweep play. Shane Parks and Matt Reid added one TD each.

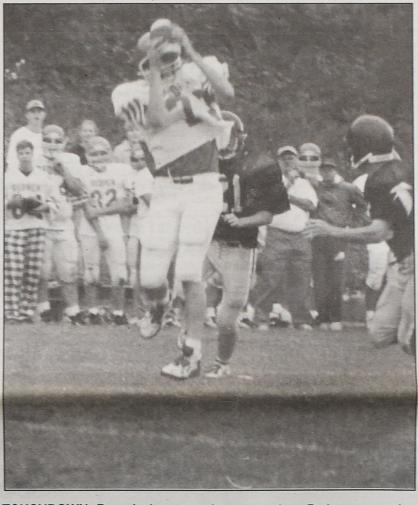
George Godfrey threw two of the touchdown passes. He also accounted for two conversions.

Fenelon had a good march in the fourth quarter, advancing to the Haliburton 12 yard line.

"They had three cracks from the 12 yard line, but our defence made a good goal line stand," Davies said.

Nate Koz was a stand-out in the Haliburton defensive line, the coach

Anderson led Hal High's rushing, with 230 yards. Ashley Walker picked up 70 yards, Darren Gilbert had 50,



TOUCHDOWN: Ryan Anderson catches a pass from Redmen quarterback George Godfrey just outside the Fenelon Falls Falcons' goal line. Anderson scored one of his two touchdowns in the game on this play. Haliburton's senior Redmen romped to a 26-0 win over the Falcons in the first game of the 1997 Kawartha High School Football League season.

while Devon Dart and Greg Simmons had 40 each.

Quarterback George Godfrey completed seven of 12 passes for 110 yards.

Davies called Fenelon's offense "boring." He added that the Falcons' lack of variety in their plays resulted in "kind of a non-game for many of our

defensive players.

On the negative side, Davies said the late start had an effect on the team. "We had a lot of penalties," he noted.

The next game for the Redmen will Thursday, September 25 at I.E. Weldon in Lindsay.

Preliminary Strategic Plan unveiled

by Jerry Grozelle

A community-based strategic plan for Haliburton County is being developed. With input from two public meetings and information gleaned from a number of existing reports, the Strategic Planning Committee, which includes Jeanne Anthon, Jock Mavor and Doug Holman, in co-operation with Christopher Bryant of Econotrends Ltd., has developed a "vision statement" for the county to strive toward over the next five to 10 years.

The vision statement goal is: A county with a co-operative environment within which the different players and population groups have worked together to achieve: a sustainable natural environment; a more stable, diversified and year-round economy, based on clean small to medium sized economic activities; residential development, both seasonal and permanent, in keeping with maintaining a small town atmosphere, environmental integrity and adequate accessible services; and a strong sense of regional identity with a more inclusive and tolerant community with all it takes to provide a high quality of life for families and individuals.

The intent of the plan is to identify and build on the strengths and assets of Haliburton County. Short, medium and long term goals will be set to capitalize on the county's human resources, business potential and natural resources, while maintaining the atmosphere and

(more on page 8)

Business park comes under close scrutiny

Changes to the municipal official plan and zoning are aimed at creating economic opportunities in this by-law will be considered at the September 25 meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden council. The changes deal with the establishment of the municipally owned business park at the corner of Highway 35 and Prince Street and regulation regarding backlot development.

A public meeting to hear concerns regarding the changes was held September 17 at the municipal office. About 20 taxpayers were on hand to ask questions of the municipality's planner, Bob Lehman, and members of council.

the current council had been to establish a place for the park, restrictions would ensure that any fabricabusiness to locate within the municipality. She also noted that planning meetings being hosted by the said, through the use of detailed site plan requirecounty had strongly supported the idea of greater di- ments, such things as outdoor storage of material versity of economic opportunities in the Highlands would be restricted and setbacks would have to mainwithout compromising the environment. "Our efforts tained. All the buildings would be connected to the

municipality," the reeve said. "In particular we want opportunities which would keep our youth here.'

Speaking on the business park, Lehman said it had been the intention of the municipality to establish a business park since 1983, when the township's official plan was first drafted. The changes being considered to the zoning bylaw would recognize the new status of the business park and create a special zoning for the

The planner pointed out that while the municipal-Reeve Jeanne Anthon said one of the priorities of ity is hoping to attract manufacturing businesses to tion would not take place outside the buildings. He

community's water and sewer system.

He told the gathering that the municipality looked at a number of potential business park locations, most adjacent to Highway 35 and felt this was the most suitable for development at this time. Lehman pointed out the property has easy access to the highway, visibility, and is close to the community.

The land was purchased earlier this year and work began on preparing the street which will cut through the property. So far, the meeting was told, the municipality has spent \$39,000 on site preparation with additional costs expected in the near future.

Opening the meeting to questions, a number of issues were raised about the business park, including the impact on the environment which may be caused by any manufacturing concern that may locate there. "Should we be introducing restrictions on what by-

(more on page 3)

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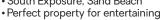
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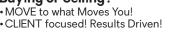
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